

out its mission of spreading peace and harmony throughout our community and the world. The church's temple, an architectural wonder, rises like a beacon and serves as an eternal reminder of the powerful spiritual presence we are so fortunate to have in our community. The compassion and concern the members of the church have for mankind is perhaps best illustrated in the following article, which I commend to the attention of my colleagues and ask that it be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From The Saints Herald, Feb. 1995]

INDIVIDUALISM AND COMPASSION

(By Wallace B. Smith)

The rhetoric of some politicians these days seems to be echoing a deep-felt mood among many citizens that ought to be troubling for followers of Jesus Christ.

The mood is not unique to any specific people, race, ethnic group, or nationality, although it was manifested rather widely in the United States during and subsequent to the November 1994 elections. Much was said about a seeming desire for change on the part of the electorate, and change was certainly reflected in the election results. There was a desire, it was said, to make government more responsive to the people—if necessary, by replacing the current political office holders with new, albeit untested, ones.

This desire has now been accomplished and has been interpreted by some as mandating a change in the social agenda as well. Indeed, the conservative philosophy of less dependence on government, more individual initiative, and increased self-reliance has been on the rise. Unfortunately, such seemingly desirable societal traits can also be viewed as "code words" that encourage the needs of the poor to be ignored, individual freedom to become license, the self systematically exalted, and injustice against the weak and the powerless fostered.

These latter qualities, which are manifestations of the sin of self-centeredness, are the very characteristics Jesus consistently pointed out to his disciples as those to be guarded against. That is why such traits, when they begin to be a reflective of the mood of a nation or a people, should give followers of Jesus Christ cause for concern.

Whether we who live in the United States of America are experiencing such a mood just now is a question that needs to be explored in light of some pertinent information. A publication from Bread for the World recently called attention to the Personal Responsibility Act being advocated by some U.S. congressional leaders. This act lumps the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program; food stamps; and school lunches in with other general welfare reforms in such a way that they are reduced three times as much as they were in the early 1980s.

At the same time, according to Bread for the World, these congressional leaders are calling on the religious community to assume more responsibility to assist people in need. If the approximately 350,000 churches in the United States were all to assist equally in this task, each would need to give \$170,000 to make up the \$60 billion in funding it is said the passage of the Personal Responsibility Act would save the government over a four-year period. Such a response is a practical impossibility.

Even more at risk are programs that help hungry people worldwide. All foreign aid represents only about 1 percent of the U.S. federal budget, and only about one-third of that goes to programs focused on reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development. Yet foreign aid will probably be cut another 25 percent in the coming year, and

the poor and the hungry will be affected the most.

It is important to realize these are not just partisan political issues. Members of Congress from both political parties feel tremendous pressure to be responsive to their constituents. These are people, many of them staunch churchgoers, who are telling their governmental representatives to cut programs that assist poor people, homeless people, people without sufficient food and basic necessities.

Why would they do that?

Perhaps some truly believe that the moral values that link personal responsibility with social change are presently missing among a large number of society's poor and disadvantaged. But, as Jim Wallis points out in *Social Justice*, "to call for self-improvement and a return to family values while ignoring the pernicious effects of poverty, racism, and sexism is to continue blaming the victim" (September-October 1994, page 16).

Perhaps what is needed most in this time of societal discontent is a willingness to take more responsibility for our own lives, to live more simply, but also to be more willing to take action on behalf of those whom Jesus calls to our attention as most worthy of our concern. For, as we are reminded in Matthew 25: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory . . . then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; . . . Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF STEVE CULLEN

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 10, 1995

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of one of Wisconsin's finest public servants, my good friend and colleague Steve Cullen.

Steve Cullen dedicated his life to the betterment of the city of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin. A graduate of Milwaukee's Washington High School and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Steve served on the Milwaukee Common Council for 12 years. He was a tireless public advocate who was not afraid to fight for his constituents. Steve's accomplishments are great. He will long be remembered for his successful efforts to bring cable television to Milwaukee, his drive to reform and reorganize city government, and his leadership and expertise on budget matters. When Steve tackled a project, no matter how challenging, he did so with enthusiasm, vigor, and integrity.

Steve will also be remembered for his boisterous personality and sense of humor. Steve brought laughter and joy into every room he entered, and could brighten your day like no one else.

Above all else, Steve Cullen was a devoted father and loving husband. Those who knew Steve well understood that the time he spent with his beautiful daughters Annie, Kathleen, Molly, and Colleen, and his wife Gael were the greatest times of his life. I'm sure that his

daughters will always remember what a caring and giving man their father was.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Steve Cullen. And I join with the city of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin in mourning the loss of an outstanding citizen and friend.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FATHER GEORGE F. RILEY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 10, 1995

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 60th birthday to Father George F. Riley. It is rare to meet a man who is so dedicated to his community.

A native of Massachusetts, Father Riley has been an important part of the Villanova community for the past 35 years where he currently serves as the special assistant to the president of the university. In this position he is responsible for assisting the development and maintenance of a strong communication network between Villanova and the more than 75,000 alumni around the world.

Father Riley's positions in the field of teaching and administration is impressive. His positions include campus Peace Corps Director; provincial secretary; archivist and vocation director of the Augustine Order which conducts Villanova and national director of the alumni fund. He also served for 21 years as vice president of university development. During his tenure he raised over \$83 million in grants and gifts for Villanova University.

In addition to his many works at Villanova University, Father Riley is involved in a number of other organizations. These include; a trustee emeritus of Merrimack College in Andover, MA, a commissioner at the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission; member of the board of directors of the Higher Education Congress of Philadelphia, and the United Way.

Mr. Speaker, Father Riley has also been the recipient of several awards and honors. These awards include "Man of the Year" by the Hebrew Academy of Atlantic County, NJ; the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of the State of New Jersey; the Italian Press Club of Philadelphia; the Distinguished Community Service Award by the B'nai B'rith of New Jersey; the Rafter Football Memorial Award as well as Philadelphia's prestigious Commodore John Barry Award by the American Catholic Historical Society.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing Father George F. Riley a very happy 80th birthday with many more in the future. Father Riley is an illustrative individual dedicated to his church, education organizations and community.